



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of: )  
)  
J. Donald HILL et al. ) Examiner: Thomas C. BARRETT  
)  
Application No.: 09/987,976 ) Group Art Unit: 3738  
)  
Filed: November 16, 2001 ) **Confirmation No. 7910**  
)  
For: AUTOMATIC SUTURE FIXATION )  
APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR )  
MINIMALLY INVASIVE CARDIAC )  
SURGERY )

**REQUEST FOR A TWO MONTH EXTENSION OF TIME TO RESPOND  
AND RESPONSIVE AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111**

Commissioner for Patents  
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office  
Customer Service Window  
Randolph Building  
401 Dulany Street  
Alexandria, VA 22314

Sir:

In response to the Office Action, mailed April 19, 2006, please amend the above-captioned patent application as follows:

**Request for a Two-Month Extension of Time** begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Amendments to the Claims** begin on page 3 of this paper.

**Request for Reconsideration** begins on page 9 of this paper.

**Remarks** begin on page 10 of this paper.

**Conclusion** begins on page 11 of this paper.

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**Request for a Two-Month Extension of Time**

Applicant respectfully requests a two-month extension of time to respond to the Office Action mailed April 19, 2006, until and including September 19, 2006. Applicant is enclosing a check in the amount of \$225.00 covering the requisite small entity fee for a two-month extension of time. Nevertheless, in the event of any variance between the fees enclosed and the fees determined by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (PTO), please charge or credit any such variance to the undersigned's Deposit Account No. 02-0375.